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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/657,815	09/08/2000	Hiromasa Okubo	2809-0114P	2984

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EXAMINER

CRENSHAW, MARVIN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2854

14

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/657,815

Applicant(s)

OKUBO ET AL.

Examiner

Marvin P. Crenshaw

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 10-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 10, 14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 18) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) 13
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8, 10, 14 and 15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Batti et al. in view of Okubo et al. (5,884,559).

Batti et al. teaches a cylindrical printing blanket comprising a seamless sleeve (See col. 1, lines 25-28) and a sheet-like blanket being bonded to an outer surface of said seamless sleeve, said sheet like blanket comprising in order a fabric layer (7), a compressive layer (3) and a surface printing layer (6). However, Batti et al. doesn't teach the sheet-like blanket being bonded by a spirally wound threaded layer. Okubo et al. teaches use of a spirally wound threaded layer (32a) to bond together layers of a blanket. To have a sheet-like blanket cylinder bonded by a threaded layer is obvious in view of the teachings of Okubo et al. since Batti et al. teaches a threaded layer is beneficial for providing a tight sealing agent.

With respect to claim 10, it would be obvious that the diameter of the sleeve would be slightly smaller than that of the cylinder so that the sleeve would fit tightly onto the cylinder when placed on it.

Art Unit: 2854

With respect to claim 14, the printing blanket is filled with a compressible elastomer (See col. 1, lines 60-68 and Col. 2, lines 1-5)

With respect to claim 15, Batti et al. teaches the fabric layer (Fig. 1, 4) is provided between a compressive layer and a surface printing layer.

Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Batti et al. in view of Kobler et al.

Batti et al. teaches all that is claimed, as discussed in the above rejection of claims 8, 10, 14 and 15, except the sleeve having a seam which is sealed to prevent liquid from permeating through, it is sealed by filling same with an elastomer and it is sealed by applying a cover there over. Kobler et al. teaches a sleeve having a seam (Fig. 1, 2) which is sealed to prevent liquid from permeating through, it is sealed by filling (8) it with an elastomer and it is sealed by applying a cover (12) there over. To have a sleeve having a seam, which is sealed to prevent liquid from permeating through, is sealed by filling it with an elastomer and is sealed by applying a cover there over is obvious in view of the teachings of Kobler et al. It would have been obvious to modify Batti et al. to have a sleeve having a seam which is sealed to prevent liquid from permeating through, it sealed by filling same with an elastomer and it is sealed by applying a cover there over as taught by Kobler et al. as an alternative means for joining the different layers together.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed February 28, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to the arguments, it would be obvious to one in the

art to modify Batti et al. with Okuba et al. because the threaded layer as taught by Okuba et al. can be added to the sheet-like blanket of Batti et al. as an adhesive to hold the layers together.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marvin P. Crenshaw whose telephone number is (703) 308-0797. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

Application/Control Number: 09/657,815

Page 5

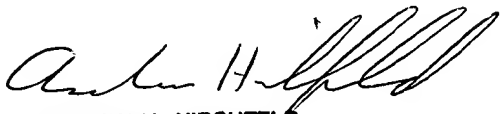
Art Unit: 2854

308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



MPC
July 1, 2002



ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800